

April's Gold Medal School of the Month Bunderson Elementary

Principal: Darin Nielsen
School Coordinator: Barbara Klein
Mentor: Chanon Peterson

Bunderson Elementary is a top notch Gold Medal School! This year they are going for Gold in a big way.



Because all Bunderson students are within walking distance, many students are walking to school and participating in the Gold Medal Mile.

Bunderson Elementary kicked off their walking this year with the PTA sponsored Green Ribbon Week. A flyer was sent home to all students and parents outlining safety tips that the kids were encouraged to practice each day. They were:

Monday: Use Cross Walks when crossing the street to go to Bunderson;

Tuesday: Don't talk to Strangers;

Wednesday: Walk to School with a Police Officer;

Thursday: Always wear helmets when riding bikes, etc;

Friday: Walk with at least one other person when going to school.

A highlight of Green Ribbon Week was Walk to School Day. Four Brigham City police officers walked with the students from four different areas. The children met the officers along the way, and they taught the kids safety tips and showed how fun it is to walk. Once they got to school, the students received a green ribbon, wrote their name on it, and then tied it to the fence showing their participation and that they pledged to be safe while walking to school. There were breakfast breads and water waiting for the walkers and informative safety brochures that the officers handed out. Later that morning an Officer went to each classroom and talked about how to safely walk to school and what to watch out for.

Each morning break students at Bunderson Elementary are encouraged to walk $\frac{1}{4}$ mile laps around the school grounds for their Gold Medal Mile. After each lap, fifth graders punch their mile marker card. Each mile marker card equals 5 miles. When each card the card is complete, the student gets a small plastic foot to put on their shoelace. The walkers also receive certificates when they reach 10, 15, 25, 75 and 100 miles.

Georgia Penrod started walking last year with her sister almost every day after school and still continues this year. The Davis family has their children walk every day; Spencer their youngest was the first to reach 100 miles in the school. This has helped him make and reach a goal for staying active. There are also several students who enter local city races. Maddie Klein won the Turkey trot and the Snowman Shuffle in her age group.

At the end of the year, all students who have reached 25 miles or more get an invitation to a free bus ride to the Ogden Marathon. Those who register will be able to run/walk the last mile making them a marathon runner. They receive a special “26” for their shoelace. When 100 or more miles are reached the student gets an invitation to a party at the Peak.



Bunderson also keeps their students motivated by hosting a special mile race each month. October was the Pumpkin Roll, November the Turkey Trot, December the Snowman Shuffle, January the Penguin Plunge, February the Cupid Chase and March the Shamrock Shuffle. Each student that walks/jogs a mile (or gets close) receives a special themed charm to wear on their shoe lace. The first place winners in each grade also receives a special award. Over 100

students participate each month.

To keep the Gold Medal Mile visually fun Bunderson’s school coordinator, Barbara Klein, made mini destination goals around the United States. There is a contest for students to guess the next destination. Every few days a clue is announced to help students guess. So far Bunderson Bears have walked from Brigham City to Dinosaur National Monument in Colorado, Mount Rushmore in South Dakota, Mall of America in Minnesota, and the Statue of Liberty. There is a map in the hallway showing the progress of the student body.

Bunderson Elementary’s three 3rd grade classes couldn’t wait to complete Criteria Menu #3 – Participate in the 5 A Day Grocery Store tours in January. On their visit they learned all about the importance of eating a variety of fruits and vegetables from Rachel, the produce manager at Wal-mart.

Going for gold has been fun, educational, and exciting for Brigham City’s Bunderson Bears!